

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Thanks to the submission of an essay, the Chase County Tourism Board has been given a free booth at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island.

The winning essay was written by Linda Pirog of the board and Jason Tuller, community development director for the City of Imperial.

The booth is a collaborative effort between the tourism board, the city, the Imperial Chamber of Commerce and many private businesses.

It will extol the “wonderful outdoor attractions and the thriving business and retail community in Chase County that is important to all the members of this application,” according to the essay.

“Chase County is a wonderful combination of agriculture, industry and commerce,” the essay continues.

“According to the recent census estimates, it is the seventh fastest growing county in Nebraska. Chase County gives you a refreshing look into what it takes to be a successful and growing rural county.”

The booth will be located in the 4-H/FFA building from Aug. 23 to Sept. 2, and will be staffed by volunteers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Pirog said businesses and organizations in the community will be approached to help staff the booth.

In the past, the tourism board has staffed a booth at the Sport and Travel Show in Denver.

“We decided this year to do something in Nebraska with more community involvement,” she noted.

“We have a great hospital, great business opportunities,” so the booth won’t focus just on tourism-related business, Pirog added.

Besides tourism board member Pirog, Claudette Swanson, Jill Moline, Dianne Way and Roger Harmon, Tuller and Kelsey Steinkraus also have been involved in the process to set up a booth at the fair.